

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

INT-08 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 081761

R 100432Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7391

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3205

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ , XC

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ASPECTS KIRK'S TRIP TO SEA: KIRK

MOVES TOWARD JAPAN

SUMMARY: KIRK TOLD ME DEC 10 HE NOW FAVORS JAPANESE

MEMBERSHIP IN ANY FUTURE ASIAN FORUM WHICH MAY EVOLVE.

END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL PM KIRK DEPARTS (PAUA NEW GUINEA, INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, INDIA AND BANGLADESH).

2. ON DEC 7 SECFO NAFF CORNER GAVE ME FOLLOWING

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BACKGROUND ON TRIP:

A. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE FONMIN MALIK DURING VISIT HERE IN NOV HAD SUGGESTED A QUADRIPARTITE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOI, PNG, GOA, AND GNZ. IT WAS CORNER'S IMPRESSION THAT MALIK SOUGHT PRIMARILY TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF SMALLER ASIAN NATIONS TO COUNTER-BALANCE JAPAN. KIRK THEN MADE NO OBJECTION TO MALIK'S SUGGESTION PROVIDED IT WAS NOT LATER EXTENDED TO PACIFIC ISLANDS LEST THEY FEEL OVERPOWERED. FURTHER, KIRK ACCEPTED THAT FOR SOME TIME 1) GNZ SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO BECOME MEMBER ASEAN, 2) IT SHOULD NOT EXPECT FORMATION ANY TYPE ASIAN FORUM WHICH INCLUDED LARGER ASIAN NATIONS (JAPAN, CHINA, USSR). CORNER SAID HE WAS TRYING PERSUDE KIRK THAT JAPAN SHOULD BE INCLUDED. IF IT WERE LEFT OUT, HE ARGUED, INTERNAL JAPANESE RESENTMENT WOULD NOT BE HEALTHY IN LONG RUN FOR SEA NATIONS, AUSTRALIA OR NZ.

3. WHEN I SAW PM BRIEFLY ON DEC 10 I ASKED HIM, AS HE PREPARED TO LEAVE ON HIS TRIP, HOW HE VIEWED GOJ. HE REPLIED FIRMLY THAT FUEL CRISIS VERY SERIOUS FOR GOJ AND MIGHT TEMPT SOME JAPANESE LEADERS TO BLAME OTHER COUNTRIES. THEREFORE HE FELT JAPAN DEFINITELY SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY FUTURE FORUM OF SEA NATIONS. (NOTE: KIRK AND MFA OFFICIALS IN USING THE TERM (SOUTHEAST ASIAN" QUITE OFTEN HAVE IN MIND A LARGER GEOGRAPHIC AREA.) HE DID NOT MENTION HIS EARLIER IDEAS OF SEEKING ADMISSION OF CHINA ALTHOUGH I KNOW HE HOPES THIS CAN SOME DAY BE DONE IN WAY WHICH WILL NOT AROUSE SEA NATIONS AND WILL EXCLUDE USSR. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGED KIRK TO INCLUDE JAPANESE MEMBER-SHIP IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN JAKARTA FOR REASONS HE HAD MENTIONED. I ALSO UNDERScoreD THAT JAPAN HAD ENTERED FUEL CRISIS IN VULNERABLE POSITION DUE TO INCREASING RAPIDITY OF RISE IN ITS WAGE RATES.

4. COMMENT: THIS MARKS USEFUL CHANGE IN KIRK'S THINKING SINCE, AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, HE HAS LONG BEEN FEARFUL OF JAPAN'S RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH. THE FUEL CRISIS AND CORNER'S ARGUMENTS HAVE BROUGHT
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HIM AROUND TO THE DIFFICULT DECISION THAT JAPAN SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY FUTURE GROUPING OF SEA NATIONS. THIS MEANS FROM US VIEW THAT NZ WILL BE MORE HELPFUL IN OUR ENDEAVORS ALONG THESE LINES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SUGGESTS KIRK BE ENCOURAGED IN HIS NEW VIEW OF ACCEPTING JAPAN A) BY ANY US DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HE MAY MAKE DURING HIS

TRIP, B) ANY FURTHER ARGUMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT WHICH
THIS EMBASSY COULD USE, C) DURING ANZUS TALKS HERE
IN FEBRUARY, AND D) WHEN HE VISITS JAPAN IN APRIL
(IN COORDINATION WITH NZ AMBASSADOR LARKIN).
WOOD

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